A New Species of Amblycerus *from Panama (Coleoptera: Bruchidae)*

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ABSTRACT

A new species of seed beetle, *Amblycerus tachygaliae*, destroys seeds of *Tachygalia versicolor* Standley and Williams, a large leguminous tree growing on Barro Colorado I., Panama. *A. tachygaliae* is described and figured, and *A. subflavidus* (Pic) is designated as a new synonym of *A. pollens* (Sharp).

Tachigalia versicolor Standley and Williams is a caesalpinoid leguminous tree 75–100 feet in height found in rain forests from Costa Rica to Panama. It produces great quantities of large, flat, single-seeded samaras each 6 to 7 cm long. From fruits collected on Barro Colorado I., the following new species of bruchid was reared.

***Amblycerus tachigaliae* Kingsolver**

(Figs. 1–4)

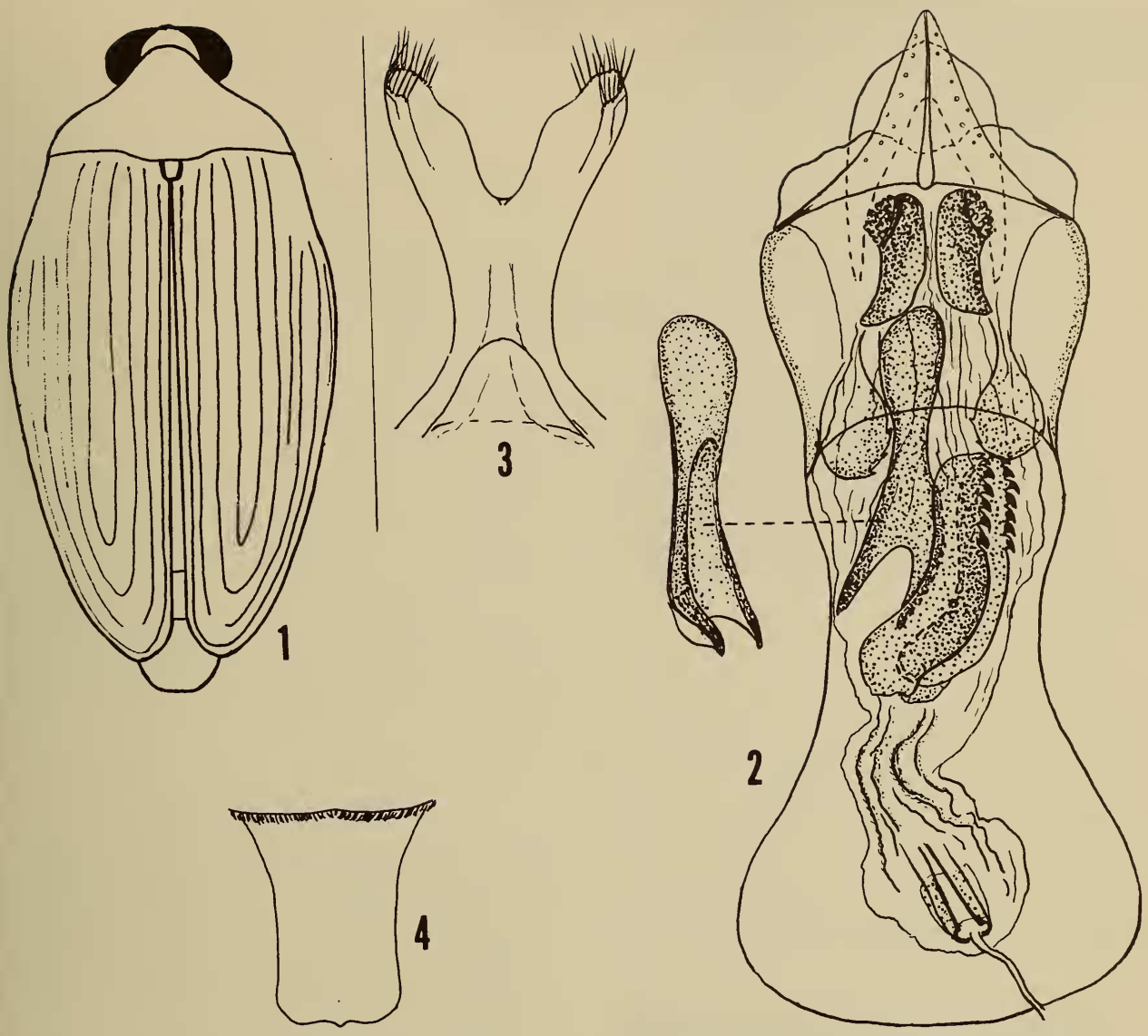
Body length—9.5 mm. Body width—5.5 mm. Pronotal length—2.5 mm. Pronotal width—4.5 mm.

Color.—Integument orange red in following areas: base of head, apex of clypeus, labrum, pronotum, elytra, abdomen, calcaria. Piceous suffused with reddish: prosternum, mesopleura, anterior portion of metepisternum, fore legs, antennae. Piceous: mesosternum, metasternum, middle and hind legs. Vestiture of very fine grayish hairs evenly distributed over body, those on orange red portions with golden sheen; pygidium with faint median line of closely spaced hairs.

Body elliptical, broad, somewhat depressed above. Head broad, short; eyes strongly protuberant, moderately incised at antennal insertion, postocular fringe of hair transverse; frons convex, vertex and frons finely punctate except along median; clypeus slightly depressed basally, finely punctate except on apical margin; labrum impunctate except for basal row of setae; antennal length equal to width of pronotal base, moderately serrate. Pronotum trapezoidal, lateral margins moderately arcuate, apex subtruncate; basal lobe broad, shallow; fine submarginal sulcus visible for nearly entire basal margin, in basal third of lateral margin, and on apical margin except for middle third, this sulcus hooked laterally around insertion of the 3 acromial setae on antero-lateral angle; disk finely punctulate with coarser punctures on slightly flattened lateral thirds of disk. Scutellum (Fig. 4) quadrate, slightly longer than wide, trilobed apically. Elytra somewhat depressed medially, intervals flat, all striae except 6 and 7 free apically. Pygidium nearly flat, oblique, slightly emarginate in male, evenly rounded in female. Prosternum narrow before coxae; intercoxal process narrow, apex slightly expanded, contiguous with vertical face of mesosternal lobe, hypomeron strongly concave, limited laterally by shiny sulcus. Metasternum slightly depressed along midline on posterior margin; postcoxal sulcus complete across midline, continuous with parasutural sulcus which extends to posterior margin; metepisternal sulcus right angled, extending halfway along pleural suture. Face of hind coxa densely covered with fine hairs in lateral three-fourths, sparsely, finely punctate; polished circular area surrounding trochanteral articulation with cluster of fine punctures. Hind femur relatively slender, ventral margin only slightly sinuate; hind tibia elliptical in cross section, ventral margin not flattened; outer calcar four-fifths as long as basitarsus, inner calcar half as long as outer calcar. Abdomen unmodified except last ventral sternum broadly emarginate in male, truncate in female.

Male genitalia.—Median lobe (Fig. 2) short, rather broad; ventral valve broadly triangular, lateral margins emarginate, dorsal valve semicircular apically, narrower at base than ventral valve; internal sac near apical orifice with paired lunate sclerites each with a coarse, granular posterolateral facet, middle of sac with an elongate, forked sclerite, and a pair of flat, serrate, curved blades. Lateral lobes as in Fig. 3.

Holotype.—♂, Panama: Barro Colorado I., Feb. 1975, Robin Foster, coll., reared from seeds of *Tachigalia versicolor*



Amblycerus tachygalia. Fig. 1, habitus, dorsal view; fig. 2, ♂ genitalia, median lobe, ventral view, with dorsal view of forked sclerite; fig. 3, ♂ genitalia, lateral lobes, ventral view; fig. 4, scutellum.

Standley & Williams. USNM Type #72813.

Allotype.—♀, Panama: Barro Colorado I., 24-II-1975, T. L. Erwin, coll., at light. In USNMNH Collection.

Paratype.—♂, Panama: Barro Colorado I., 10-III-1961, J. M. Campbell, coll., at light. In Canadian National Collection, Ottawa.

Amblycerus tachygaliae is most closely related to *A. pollens* (Sharp) (= *A. subflavidus* (Pic), NEW SYNONYMY). The abdomen in *A. pollens* is entirely black (red in *A. tachygaliae*), the hind femur is lobed on the medioventral carina (straight in *A. tachygaliae*), the ventral margin of the metepisternum has a fusiform, polished, finely ribbed boss (absent in *A. tachygaliae*), and marked differences are present in the ♂ genitalia. The two species are of comparable size and are the largest species in *Amblycerus* I have seen. The host plant of *A. pollens* is not known.

References Cited

Pic, M. 1902. Description de coléoptères nouveaux. Bruchidae de l'Amerique meridionale. Naturaliste 24: 172.

Sharp, D. 1885. Biologia Centralia-Americana, Insecta, Coleoptera, Bruchidae 5: 437–504.